

approval are proposed drawing changes, where the conversion means 6 has been indicated in Figure 4, using red ink. Upon approval of the drawing changes, and allowance of the application, revised formal drawings will be submitted in compliance with United States Patent and Trademark Office guidelines. It is requested that this objection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected various ones of the claims as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner has stated that the reference to "Flex ATX specification and a Micro ATX specification" makes the claims inherently vague. This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

As is well known to those skilled in the relevant art, to whom the present application is directed, circuit boards have been developed using certain industry standards, for example ATX, Flex ATX and Micro ATX. These industry standards are set, so that a computer manufacturer can design a computer, knowing that a particular selected industry standard motherboard will fit within the computer housing. As such, a circuit board complying with a particular industry standard will always comply with that industry standard. If the industry standards were subject to change or revision, as alleged by the Examiner's Action, then there would be no point in establishing such industry standards, since there could then be no assurances that the circuit board would be usable in a certain computer. As such, since the industry standards recited in Applicants' claims are NOT subject to change and/or revision, as alleged by the Examiner's Action, and since one skilled in the relevant art could ascertain the scope and breadth of the claimed invention, it is submitted that the claims are all definite within the purview of 35 USC Section 112, second paragraph, and it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 6-9 and 11 as being obvious over *Schuck* (U.S.P. 4,400,049) in view of *Talbot et al.* (U.S.P. 6,259,600). It is submitted that the claims are patentably distinguishable over these references for at least the following reasons.

Applicants' independent claim 1 is directed to a motherboard assembly that includes a motherboard which complies with one of a FlexATX specification and a MicroATX specification. The motherboard assembly further includes an expansion board that has at least one slot. The expansion board is detachably connected to the motherboard. When the expansion board is connected to the motherboard, the motherboard and the expansion board are arranged in coplanar fashion so that the motherboard assembly complies with either the MicroATX specification or the ATX specification when the motherboard complies with the FlexATX specification, or complies with the ATX specification when the motherboard complies with the MicroATX specification. As disclosed by Applicants' specification, this allows a motherboard that complies with one specification to be easily adapted to comply with a second specification, so that the motherboard can be fixed into a case that is adapted to receive a motherboard of the second specification. This increases the compatibility of the motherboards, facilitating assembly and decreasing the cost of assembly (see, page 8, lines 11-22, for example).

Schuck discloses a connector for interconnecting circuit boards in which various circuit boards are disposed in an edge-to-edge manner and are connected together using the connector 10, such as shown in Figure 5. This reference also discloses attaching circuit boards 46 to the slots of a back plane 54 using a conventional connector 52.

However, there is absolutely no disclosure or suggestion from this reference that the motherboard complies with one of a FlexATX specification and a MicroATX specification as recited within claim 1. In fact, there is no disclosure or suggestion of the configuration of the motherboard at all. Moreover, there is no disclosure or suggestion from this reference that the motherboard assembly complies with either a MicroATX specification and an ATX specification when the motherboard complies with the FlexATX specification, or that the motherboard assembly complies with the ATX specification when the motherboard complies with a MicroATX specification, as recited in claim 1. In fact, the object of the invention disclosed by this patent is not in any way directed to providing a motherboard assembly which allows a motherboard of a first specification to be used in a case that is adapted to receive a motherboard having a second specification. Instead, this disclosure is only directed to an improved connector 10 to allow various circuit boards to be connected together.

The Examiner's Action acknowledges that *Schuck* does not teach an assembly having an ATX specification, and relies on the teachings of *Talbot et al.* to overcome this deficiency. *Talbot et al.* disclose a processor assembly 10 having a motherboard 12. This reference further discloses that the motherboard 12 complies with the ATX specification. The Examiner's Action contends that it would be obvious to provide the *Schuck* assembly to have an ATX specification, in view of the teachings from *Talbot*.

However, it is respectfully noted that Applicants are NOT alleging that a motherboard having an ATX specification is novel, as is apparently contended by the Examiner's Action. In fact, Applicants' specification makes it clear that motherboards having the ATX specification are well known. However, what is NOT known by the

prior art is providing a motherboard that complies with one of a FlexATX specification and a MicroATX specification, as recited within claim 1, and attaching the motherboard to an expansion board to form a motherboard assembly that complies with either a MicroATX specification and an ATX specification when the motherboard complies with the FlexATX specification, or that the motherboard assembly complies with the ATX specification when the motherboard complies with a MicroATX specification, as recited in claim 1. That is, Applicants' claimed invention essentially converts a motherboard that complies with one industry standard into a motherboard assembly that complies with a different industry standard. This combination of features is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references, and in fact, has not even been addressed by the Examiner's Action! The Examiner's Action has thus failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness against claim 1.

As such, it is submitted that Applicants' independent claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom, are *prima facie* patentably distinguishable over the cited references.

Moreover, Applicants' independent claim 7 is directed to a motherboard assembly that selectively complies with one of a FlexATX specification, a MicroATX specification, and an ATX specification, with the motherboard assembly having a motherboard having a FlexATX specification, and first and second expansion boards. When the first expansion board is connected to the motherboard, the motherboard assembly has the MicroATX specification, and when the first and second expansion boards are both connected to the motherboard, the motherboard assembly has the ATX specification. As noted above, the cited references do not disclose or otherwise suggest a motherboard having a FlexATX specification, and that is connectable to first and/or

second expansion boards to form a motherboard assembly having any of the specifications recited within claim 7. As such, the arrangements disclosed by the cited references would not achieve the objectives obtainable by utilizing Applicants' claimed invention. Therefore, it is submitted that Applicants' independent claim 7 and the claims dependent therefrom are *prima facie* patentably distinguishable over the cited references, and it is requested that these claims be allowed and that these rejections be withdrawn.

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Such action, and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

RHB:rhb

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 18, and bridging page 11, lines 1-16, and replace it with the following paragraph.

--The invention also provides a motherboard complying with a first industry standard specification and an expansion board for providing the motherboard with at least one slot. In particular, an interface specification, which one of the slots provided by the expansion board follows, is not followed by the motherboard and, thereby, the expansion board can increase the expansibility of the motherboard. To achieve the purpose, in an embodiment, the first connection device 411 and the second connection device 421 include a first bus, respectively. The slots 422 includes a slot following a second bus. The expansion board 42 further includes a conversion device [(not shown)] 6 for performing the conversion between the first bus and the second bus. For example, the first bus is the PCI bus, the second bus is the ISA, and thus the conversion device is for performing the conversion between the PCI bus and the ISA bus. This approach can make the connection of the motherboard 41 to the expansion devices with the buses that the motherboard 41 does not follow. In addition, the buses designed into the first and connection devices (411 and 421) can be decreased to reduce the manufacture cost of the motherboard 41.--